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The Illinois State Library

Serving
Illinois

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Secretary of State
and State Librarian

Serving Illinois

It is the mission of the Illinois State Library to provide state government officials and employees with the information they need to make informed decisions, as well as to develop and promote libraries to enrich the quality of life for the people of Illinois.

Libraries face a variety of challenges in meeting increasingly complex information needs. The Illinois State Library addresses these issues in its **two-fold purpose** as the **library for state government** officials and employees and in promoting and enhancing **library and literacy services** throughout the state.

Established more than 150 years ago, the **State Library is located directly across from the state capitol**. The library's proximity to government offices emphasizes its role in meeting the information needs of state government.

An interesting architectural feature of the building's exterior is the **recognition of 35 authors** whose names are etched into the fourth floor frieze. The inscriptions honor living and deceased authors who are either Illinois natives or whose works are closely identified with the Prairie State.

Any citizen may use the State Library in Springfield or borrow materials through an interlibrary loan from a local library.

The Illinois State Library maintains a collection of more than **5 million items** with strengths in the areas of government and public policy. The library is a **regional depository** for state and federal documents. Reference and research services are provided directly to elected officials and state agency personnel.

The **map collection** at the State Library includes more than 185,000 state, U.S. and foreign maps, as well as geographical books, journals, gazetteers, atlases and cartobibliographies.

The State Library became a **U.S. Patent & Trademark Depository Library** in 1984. As one of only two patent libraries in the state, the library supports Illinois' economic development efforts by providing individuals and businesses with current and accessible information. Individuals may use the library to research known patents and to determine if an idea can be patented.

Statewide library programs, supported by an **annual budget of more than \$70 million**, are administered by the Office of the Secretary of State. **In Illinois, the Secretary of State is also the State Librarian.**

Two special initiatives increase funding for libraries and literacy programs.

- **The Live & Learn Program** provides \$19 million for library and literacy programs.
- **The Educate & Automate Program** funds library telecommunications, digitized collections, computer equipment, access to electronic resources and family literacy programs.

The public library **construction grant program** contributes to the library and architectural heritage of Illinois. The Illinois State Library earmarks \$4.9 million annually for grants for new construction, handicapped accessibility, library addition and remodeling.

Illinois libraries apply annually to the State Library for **\$4 million in federal funds** that can be used to increase access to information, train library staff and promote reading.

State Library funds are used for three **programs for the disabled**:

- The Talking Book Program.
- Radio Services.
- Newsline Network.

More than 5,000 Newsline readers have access to three major national newspapers.

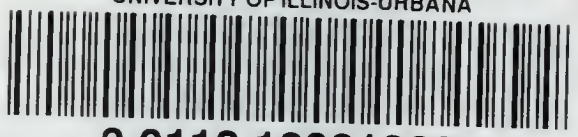
Family Reading Night, an annual event launched in 1992, encourages families to read together at home. Colorful posters, bookmarks and brochures are distributed to children at libraries, schools, day care centers and literacy programs throughout Illinois.

Through the Illinois State Library, the Secretary of State's office administers five **literacy grant programs**. An estimated 4 million Illinois adults have low literacy skills that keep them from functioning effectively in today's society. Grant programs include:

- community volunteer tutoring
- family literacy program
- domestic shelter program
- workplace literacy
- “Making Work Pay” for businesses.

The Illinois State Library coordinates the activities and growth of the **Illinois Library & Information Network (ILLINET)**. ILLINET is comprised of more than 4,000 academic, public, school and special libraries that belong to the twelve regional library systems. Sharing resources meet the needs of library patrons is a founding principle of this special partnership among libraries.





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For information about additional programs,
please contact:

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